

Montana Newsletter

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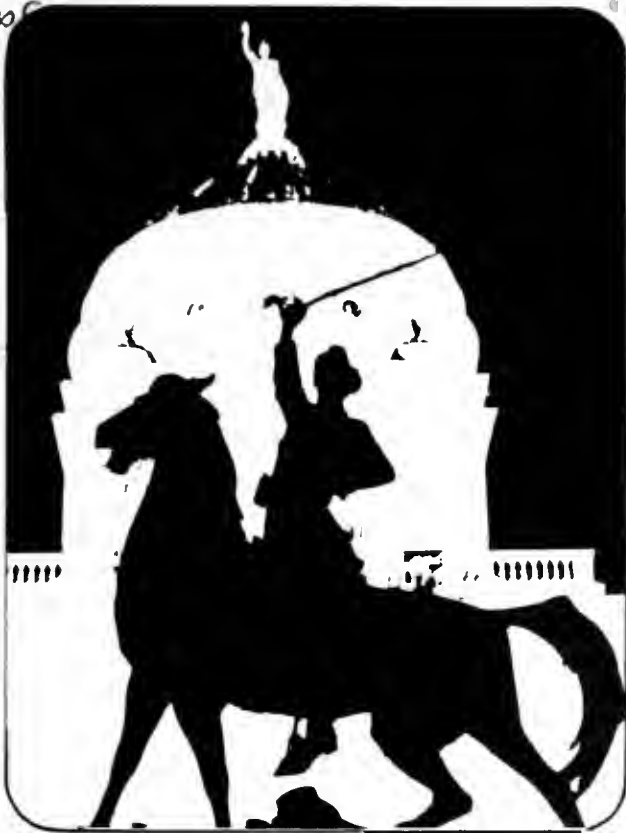
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Federal Revenue Sharing In Trouble

Congressional debate over the Federal Revenue Sharing program is currently more active than at any time since the program was originally considered eight years ago. The present controversy has arisen as the result of two separate yet unrelated events—state legislative demands for a balanced federal budget and congressional consideration of funding revenue sharing for fiscal 1980, the last year for which the program is authorized. With combined state cash surpluses of \$29 billion in 1978, some members of Congress resent the fact that many states have passed resolutions calling for a constitutional convention to force amendments prohibiting Congress from running deficits.

The situation presents an obvious alternative to Congress—help balance the federal budget by cutting the states out of the 1980 revenue sharing appropriation. Congressional action to this end has been swift. Under the Budget Reform Act, House and Senate Budget Committees were required to make balanced spending and debt recommendations to their respective houses by May 15. In their recommendation, the House Budget Committee deleted the state's \$2.285 billion from the 1980 federal spending program. A bill to restore the states' share, sponsored by Rep. Barber Conable (R-NY) was defeated in the House by a 195-190 vote. In contrast to the House action, the Senate Budget Committee's recommendation contained full funding for the 1980 revenue sharing entitlement period, including the states' share. While not binding on their respective houses, the budget committees' recommendations carry considerable weight with members of Congress who will vote on the 1980 federal budget. Consequently, a Joint Budget Conference Committee was convened to reconcile differences in the recommen-

dations of the House and Senate budget committees. On May 18, the Joint Conference Committee recommended that \$1.9 billion of the states' \$2.285 billion in anticipated revenue sharing funds be preserved in the federal budget. A second budget resolution vote occurs in September.

Even though the current controversy centers around state participation in the revenue sharing program, there is no assurance that Congress will not ultimately similarly cut allocations to counties, cities and towns. For that reason, national interest groups representing counties, municipalities and even schools are rallying to the aid of the states. In addition, many states distribute some or all of their revenue sharing receipts to their respective municipalities. Montana's entire allocation of \$8.5 million annually is used to support the general fund budgets of the state's school districts. A loss of the state's share of revenue sharing could result in the need to impose a 5-mill Statewide Public School Supplemental Permissive levy.

Whatever the outcome of the 1980 funding debate, renewal of the revenue sharing program next year will present a major challenge to all states and their local governments. President Carter's executive proposal for renewal of the program is due this fall, and Montana state and local officials are anxiously awaiting some positive news regarding the fate of this important revenue source.

Newsletter readers having questions on any aspect of the current revenue sharing program may write Don Dooley, Assistant Administrator, DCA Local Government Services Division, Capitol Station, Helena, Mt. 59601 or call him at 449-3010.

Grantsmanship Seminar Held in Lewistown

DCA staff members Tim Ahern (Human Resources) and Carol Daly (Planning) conducted a two-day "grantsmanship" training program in Lewistown May 23rd and 24th for city officials, agency representatives, and staff members from local non-profit organizations. Developed at the request of Lewistown's Mayor Robert LaFountain, the seminar covered the basic elements of proposal writing and the effective utilization of both federal and private (foundation) funding sources. Participants were encouraged to present grant applications

on which they were currently working on for group critique and suggestions.

Other community agencies or officials interested in having a similar workshop offered in their area should contact Carol (at 449-3757) or Tim (449-3420) for further information. A minimum of 12 participants is suggested to ensure the greatest benefit from the group discussion/work sessions, and host communities are asked to provide a suitable meeting room.

Annexation Law Revised

The 1979 Legislature, by adopting House Bills 365 and 366, made important changes in the ways Montana cities and towns can annex new territory. These bills become effective July 1, 1979, and to assess their impact it is necessary to examine the eight statutes which now govern the annexation process in Montana:

1. Sections 7-2-4201 through 7-2-4203, MCA (formerly 11-401 and 11-402, R.C.M. 1947) provide that unincorporated territory which has been “surveyed and laid off into streets or blocks as an addition” to a municipality “may become a part of such city or town” upon the filing of a map or plat of the addition upon which the approval of the mayor and city council has been endorsed. Under this provision the municipality may compel owners of “additions” to lay them out in a manner compatible with the layout of the city or town.

2. Section 7-2-4302, MCA (formerly 11-405, R.C.M. 1947) relates solely to the annexation of one municipality by another contiguous city or town.

3. Sections 7-2-4311 through 7-2-4314, MCA (formerly 11-403 through 11-405, R.C.M. 1947) relate to annexation of territory by first class cities where the city initiates the annexation process. Under them first class cities may unilaterally annex platted or unplatted land unless a majority of the resident freeholders of the area proposed for annexation petition against the proposal.

4. Sections 7-2-4321 through 7-2-4325 (formerly 11-403, R.C.M. 1947) deal with annexation initiated by second- and third-class municipalities. The procedures are similar to those described in item 3, above.

5. Sections 7-2-4401 through 4407, MCA (formerly 11-511 and 11-512, R.C.M. 1947) authorize municipalities to annex contiguous publicly owned land under certain circumstances.

6. Sections 7-2-4501 through 7-2-4504, MCA (formerly 11-403 and 11-404, R.C.M. 1947) concern the annexation by first class cities of areas of land which are wholly surrounded by the city. The annexation procedure is initiated by the city and is identical to that contained in sections 7-2-4311 *et seq.* (No. 3, above) except that the resident freeholders of the affected parcel may not block annexation by petitioning against it.

7. Sections 7-2-4601 through 7-2-4609, MCA (formerly 11-506 through 11-510, R.C.M. 1947) provide that in first-class cities with a population of 20,000 or more annexation may be initiated by petition of the resident freeholders of the affected area. Under these sections if one-third of the affected resident freeholder electors petition for annexation, the city must put the question to the voters of the city and the affected area. Annexation is automatic following a favorable vote at this election.

8. Sections 7-2-4701 to 7-2-4752, MCA (formerly 11-514 through 11-526, R.C.M. 1947) — the Planned Community Development Act of 1973 — applies to every city and town and provides for annexation initiated by either the municipality or by petition of 51 percent of the affected resident freeholders. The Act contains a provision by which protesting property owners may block annexation but does not provide for an election on the issue of annexation *per se*.

The key feature of the Act is that it prohibits annexation until the municipality has adopted a comprehensive plan for the area and a plan for the extension of municipal services to the annexed area including a statement of the method by which the city or town will pay for the extension of services. In addition, the Act provides that if the extension of services plan calls for capital improvements the resident freeholders in the affected area must be permitted to vote on the improvements. If such a vote is negative, annexation may not proceed.

In 1975 the Montana Supreme Court ruled that the Planned Community Development Act superseded the other methods of annexation described above and that all annexations were subject to its requirements. HB 366, on the other hand, nullifies the Supreme Court ruling and makes it clear that all of the statutes summarized above stand as independent and alternative approaches to the annexation process.

HB 365 amends sections 7-2-4601 *et seq.* (Item 7 above) to provide that (a) this statute applies to all cities regardless of size or class and (b) if more than 50 percent of the resident freeholder electors in an unincorporated area petition for annexation, the governing body of the municipality *need not* hold an election, as the law now requires, but may approve or disapprove the petition on its merits.

Having passed HB 365 and 366, the 1979 Legislature then assigned top priority among its 1979-81 interim studies to a review of the confusing and sometimes contradictory state laws governing annexations by municipalities. Further information about this study, including dates of upcoming public hearings, will be reported in the MCN.

HUD Workshops Explore Community Organizations' Needs

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Neighborhood, Voluntary Association and Consumer Protection conducted introductory workshops in Billings and Missoula, June 4-5 and 7-8 respectively, to present the agency's new policies and programs for helping community or neighborhood development groups get organized and involved in self-help activities. Ms. Joyce Young, HUD-Denver, and Mr. Robert Howard, HUD-Washington, D.C., presented this new federal initiative for citizens and offered their help to community groups in obtaining organizational, manpower and financial resources to meet local needs such as housing development or rehabilitation and economic development. More information, including a Consumer Forum packet, is available from:

Ms. Joyce Young, NVACP Representative
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Executive Tower, 1405 Curtis Street
Denver, CO 80202 (303) 837-2857

or

Kent L. Mollohan, Chief, Housing Bureau
Planning Division, DCA
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601 (406) 449-2804

"701" Funds Cut

For over two decades, "701" planning assistance funds have provided significant support for comprehensive planning by municipal and county governments in Montana. Since the Federal Housing Act of 1954 first authorized the program, over \$1,500,000 have been distributed to local governments and approximately \$250,000 to Indian reservations to assist community planning activities.

The fears for the HUD "701" Comprehensive Planning Assistance program which MCN reported on in the January issue were apparently well-founded. The Senate Banking Committee recently endorsed the Carter Administration's proposed funding level of \$40 million for Fiscal Year 1980, a severe cut from last year's level of \$53.5 million and \$57.5 million in FY 1978. The reduction was approved with little debate. Committee members were apparently displeased by HUD's continued emphasis on funding metropolitan planning agencies in spite of Congressional mandates to favor smaller communities. HUD was also criticized for "over administering" the program since it has been cut back from its peak funding level of \$100 million. On

May 15th the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD recommended only \$35 million for the "701" program.

Proponents of the program had branded even the Carter Administration's \$40 million proposal as inadequate and unrealistic in light of the need for planning and management to help guide the investment of billions of federal, state and local dollars in local developments.

Action by the full House and Senate committees is expected soon.

WIFE Works for Montana Agriculture

A small group of Nebraska women calling themselves WIFE—Women Involved in Farm Economics—joined together in December, 1976, to do what they could through lobbying and informational efforts to counteract the low prices being paid to farmers and ranchers for their agricultural products. A Montana chapter was organized in Lewistown in April, 1977, and since then Montana WIFE has grown to approximately 500 members representing 17 local chapters. In less than three years WIFE has become a significant promoter of rural and agricultural interests and issues on both state and national levels. The group is not an auxiliary to any other organization, but it has formed a legislative coalition with other farm interests to pursue their mutual concerns more effectively.

Self-education was the initial step in WIFE's efforts, according to WIFE representative Yvonne Snyder of Lewistown. Although many members have lived and worked on farms and ranches most of their lives, they did not develop a clear understanding of the complexity of agricultural economics until completing in-depth investigation and study of the problems. Since then, members have traveled throughout Montana presenting consumer education programs, using the media and other forums to bring to the general public greater knowledge of food pricing and the role of Montana's farmers and ranchers in the overall economic framework of the food industry.

In addition to its lobbying and consumer education efforts, WIFE has undertaken several major innovative programs which it expects will have a positive effect on agricultural income in the state. Top priority at this time for both Montana and the national organization is the promotion of gasohol, a product resulting from the combination of ethanol (alcohol) with gasoline. Ethanol can be refined from wheat, corn, sugar beets, potatoes, and other agricultural commodities. The process also

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produces a high protein by-product that can be used as animal feed but may also be adapted for human consumption. By promoting the use of wheat and other farm products for the production of automobile fuel, WIFE hopes to increase production and stimulate higher prices for American wheat.

WIFE members have not just talked about gasohol. Well before the current gasoline shortage, they organized a gasohol caravan to Washington, D.C., and New York City. About 70 Montanans riding in 13 cars and a bus powered by gasohol joined WIFE members from other states to demonstrate that gasohol is a reliable and efficient automotive fuel. Along their route members held press conferences and other activities to increase public awareness of the advantages of gasohol, and in Washington they met with Congressional representatives to urge funding of ethanol plants on a demonstration basis. As a result of their participation in WIFE's promotion of gasohol and their faith in its future, several Montana WIFE members and their families formed a private corporation, Montana Agri-Processors, to construct a one million gallon per year ethanol plant. Production is expected to commence in

October, 1979, with the product being marketed to farmers for use in their operations and to refineries to mix with gasoline to be sold as gasohol.

Another agriculturally based business inspired by WIFE efforts is Montana Ranch Beef. Several Lewistown WIFE members exploring ways to promote increased consumption of Montana beef, decided that canned beef could be an ideal response to current demand for convenience foods. Montana Ranch Beef was formed as a private corporation of WIFE families, and has been canning its product since July, 1978. Montana sales have been good, and the corporation is planning to construct its own canning plant in Harlowton, expand production, and market its product nationally.

Members are speaking out for other farmers and ranchers who lack the time or resources to adequately promote their own economic interests, and are working to promote goodwill and understanding between Montana agricultural producers and the American consumer. Persons interested in learning more about WIFE should contact:

Nancy Espy, President
Women Involved in Farm Economics
Boyes, MT 59316

Transit System Subsidy Grant Program Announced

Capital and operating costs of local transit systems can be subsidized through a new program of the U.S. Department of Transportation known as "Section 18" (of the Surface Transportation Act of 1978). Eligible recipients include cities, counties, transit districts, Indian reservations, non-profit organizations and operators of public transportation services. Funds are available to purchase vehicles and related equipment on an 80 percent federal and 20 percent local ratio. Operating subsidies are also available on a 50/50 matching basis.

Governor Judge has designated the Department of Community Affairs to administer the distribution of the \$491,000 set aside annually by the U.S. Department of Transportation for projects within Montana. Funds are currently available, but permanent procedures will not be completed until early next fiscal year. Meanwhile temporary application procedures and project eligibility criteria have been established so that communities and rural areas can take immediate advantage of available subsidies. Proposed projects must meet the following basic requirements:

1. Project must be in a "non-urbanized area" (outside of Billings or Great Falls).
2. The system must be open to the general public but may be designed to serve primarily the general elderly and handicapped public or general transit dependent public.

3. The system must substantially incorporate all publicly subsidized transportation within an area.

4. Only one agency within any city or county will be considered for subsidy.

5. A project must be based on recommendations, operating procedures and financial schedules derived from an analysis of transportation needs within an area.

6. To be eligible for assistance private systems must be operated under contract for service with a public agency.

7. To obtain operating subsidies costs must have been incurred after November 6, 1978.

All eligible programs will be reviewed by a project selection committee comprised of local and state representatives and representatives of private transportation services.

This program will provide localities opportunities to begin to pull together publicly subsidized social service transportation programs and to make these systems available to the transit dependent public.

Information on this program can be obtained by contacting Byron Roberts, Assistant Administrator of DCA's Planning Division.

Forest Service Payments to Counties

According to the U.S. Forest Service, advance estimates of payments that 34 Montana counties can expect from the National Forests will total over \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 1980.

By Federal law, 25 percent of revenue the Forest Service collects from timber sales, grazing, purchaser road credits, sale area betterment collections, recreation, and mineral and land use charges are returned to States for counties. Each county's share of the receipts is determined by the acreage of the National Forests within the county.

Estimates are prepared by the Forest Service to provide States and counties with information needed to plan local budgets. Actual payments will be made about December 1, 1979. Payments will be based on actual receipts and may, therefore, vary from these estimates. The counties' shares of estimated receipts for Montana are:

Beaverhead	120,733
Broadwater	7,047
Carbon	23,092
Carter	6,195
Cascade	6,374
Choteau	1,150
Deer Lodge	28,112
Fergus	3,334

Flathead	1,595,543
Granite	243,328
Gallatin	51,914
Glacier	910
Golden Valley	850
Judith Basin	10,532
Jefferson	96,416
Lake	141,797
Lewis & Clark	113,322
Lincoln	2,806,355
Madison	82,425
Meagher	16,701
Mineral	386,715
Missoula	445,531
Park	68,086
Powder River	23,582
Powell	335,080
Pondera	3,835
Ravalli	152,142
Rosebud	6,640
Sanders	1,151,088
Silver Bow	42,779
Stillwater	12,910
Sweet Grass	23,084
Teton	8,461
Wheatland	2,378

Cartographic Information Network Expands To Montana

A cartographic information center, through which people may locate any one of millions of maps, charts and aerial and space photographs, has been established in Helena by joint agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Montana Department of Community Affairs, Research and Information Systems Division. The state center will operate as an outlet for the USGS National Cartographic Information Center (NCIC).

The Montana center is the 17th state-operated NCIC outlet to be established since the NCIC was created in 1974 to provide a focal point between those who acquire or produce cartographic data and those who need the data. State-level NCIC offices have been established also by Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia. The NCIC has its headquarters at the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia.

The NCIC is developing various computerized information systems for the cartographic products and data held by more than 30 federal agencies, as well as by many state and private organizations. For instance, the NCIC has information pertaining to more than 12 million frames of aerial photographs collected by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Interior and others. Information also is available on nautical and aeronautical charts and geodetic controls published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, topographic maps published by the USGS, and space images acquired by NASA satellites.

The Montana office will concentrate on supplying information on the availability of maps, aerial photography and other cartographic products and data relating to the state of Montana and adjoining areas. The Montana outlet also will supply information on the availability of NASA's Skylab satellite photography and Landsat satellite imagery for the conterminous United States area and will be responsible for acquiring cartographic data from state agencies and private organizations in Montana to put into the NCIC systems.

Mr. R. Thomas Dundas, Jr. is the Administrator of the Research and Information Systems Division and the technical person in charge is Ms. Patricia Roberts. They can be reached at 449-2896 or by mail at the DCA address.

Coal Tax Planning Funds Allocated

County land planning funds, derived from the coal severance tax, will be allocated to counties during the next biennium. Each county will receive a base of \$3,000.00 per year, with the remaining available funds being allocated among the 56 counties on a formula based 60 percent on population and 40 percent on geographic area. The funds must be used to support land use planning, and at the end of the fiscal year each county must return any unexpended or unencumbered funds to the education trust fund. Following are the county-by-county projections for FY 1979-80:

Beaverhead	\$6,800
Big Horn	6,900
Blaine	6,000
Broadwater	4,000
Carbon	5,000
Carter	4,800
Cascade	16,200
Chouteau	5,600
Custer	6,400
Daniels	4,000
Dawson	5,600
Deer Lodge	5,400
Fallon	4,200
Fergus	6,800
Flathead	11,600
Gallatin	9,600
Garfield	5,400
Glacier	6,000
Golden Valley	3,600
Granite	4,200
Hill	6,800
Jefferson	4,800

Judith Basin	4,200
Lake	6,000
Lewis & Clark	9,800
Liberty	4,200
Lincoln	7,000
McCone	4,600
Madison	5,400
Meagher	4,400
Mineral	4,000
Missoula	13,600
Musselshell	4,400
Park	6,000
Petroleum	3,800
Phillips	6,200
Pondera	4,600
Powder River	4,800
Powell	5,000
Prairie	4,000
Ravalli	6,600
Richland	5,200
Roosevelt	5,400
Rosebud	6,600
Sanders	5,400
Sheridan	4,500
Silver Bow	4,400
Stillwater	4,600
Sweet Grass	4,200
Teton	5,000
Toole	4,600
Treasure	3,600
Valley	7,200
Wheatland	4,000
Wibaux	3,600
Yellowstone	17,000

Planning Director Sought

Richland County Planning Director. Located in Sidney. Responsible for conducting subdivision review, addressing energy impact problems and coordinating general county planning activities. Bachelor degree in planning plus one or two years experience desired. Salary \$1100 per month. Contact Mr. Andrew Peterson, County Commissioner, phone 482-1706.

Rural Health Manpower Conference Planned

The Montana Health Systems Agency is sponsoring a workshop, "Rural Health Manpower in Montana," Friday, July 6, 1979, at the Sheraton Inn in Great Falls. Senator Max Baucus will deliver the keynote address, "The Politics of Rural Health." Other topics to be explored include emergency medical services, regionalized medical and health professional education, mental health, federal response to rural manpower needs, and the role of the nurse practitioner.

The conference begins at 9 a.m., and is open to the public. There is no registration fee.

Publications of Interest

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has published a 28-page report which describes techniques for historic preservation and conservation in rural areas, including sources of assistance, federal agencies involved, and a bibliography. Single copies are free and multiple copies are 50 cents each plus postage. Contact the National Trust, 740-748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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According to the Urban Land Institute's *Land Use Digest* the Society of Industrial Realtors and the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks recently issued a study entitled *A Guide to Industrial Site Selection*. The book deals with questions such as labor availability at the site; utilities; governmental regulations applicable to specific situations; taxes and the attitudes of local government towards industry; transportation; the availability of financing or purchasing and leasing terms; and the intangibles such as schools, fire and police services, recreational facilities, hospitals, and other resources that will vary from site to site. Copies of this report are available for \$5.00 from the Society of Industrial Realtors, 925 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

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The Governor of California's Office of Appropriate Technology has published a 50-page handbook illustrating existing energy-conserving design and technologies in homes and communities. The book, *Present Value: Constructing a Sustainable Future*, features case studies of innovative projects and is intended to show what options are now available for using energy more efficiently. Single copies of the handbook are available for \$1.00 to cover printing and mailing. Contact the Office of Appropriate Technology, 1530 10th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814.

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Rural officials looking for new sources of development funding will be interested in a new booklet recently published by the National Rural Center.

Private Funding for Rural Programs profiles major national, regional and local charitable foundations which take interest in the problems of rural people and their communities. Also listed are other such unusual sources of development grants as church organizations, corporations and labor unions. Advice on how to identify potential donors, as well as how to approach them is included.

The National Rural Center is a non-profit organization based in Washington to work for the development of effective policies and to act as an information clearinghouse for rural groups and communities. The pamphlet was prepared in response to the many requests the center has received for leads to funding sources in the private sector.

Copies of the booklet, Volume Seven in the NRC publication series, are available at no cost from the National Rural Center, 1828 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

All-America Cities Competition Opens

Montana communities interested in taking part in the National Municipal League's All-America Cities Program have until September 5, 1979, to enter. Completion of entry material and an official entry form is the first step towards participation and evaluation. A National Municipal League screening committee will then select no more than 22 of the competing communities to send representatives to the National Conference on Government, during which another evaluation will take place. Finalist communities will be asked to prepare displays and to make formal presentations about their activities. Winners will be announced in Spring, 1980.

According to the League, the All-America City finalists and winners receive considerable recognition and benefit from the heightened interest and effort towards improvement in the community.

Entry details are available from: ALL-AMERICA CITIES AWARDS PROGRAMS, National Municipal League, Carl Pforzheimer Building, 47 East 68th St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

Montana to Host Governors' Interstate Indian Council Conference

DCA's Indian Affairs Unit and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation are cohosts for the 30th Annual Conference of the Governor's Interstate Indian Council. The Conference will be held at the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell on August 27-30, 1979.

The Governors' Interstate Indian Council is composed of three delegates appointed by the Governors from over 30 states with significant Indian populations. The delegates convene annually to discuss mutual concerns and develop viable alternatives for solving problems between tribal and state governments.

The theme for this year's Conference is "Strengthening Tribal and State Relations." Tribal, state and federal officials are being invited to participate in panel discussions of natural resources, health and social services.

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